

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-08

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P 011611Z DEC 76

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5519

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FOR AF/W MCGUIRE

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: OGEN IBRD GH

SUB: MESSAGE FOR WORLD BANK

1. WORLD BANK RESREP MCGIBBON REQUESTED US TO PASS
FOLLOWING TO CLIFT, WEST AFRICA DEPT., IBRD, EXTENSION
4498.

2. BEGIN TEXT. FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT FROM THE
GHANAIAAN TIMES OF DECEMBER 1ST. THIS NEWSPAPER IS
PUBLISHING SECTIONS REPORTED TO BE FROM THE REPORT OF A
COMMITTEE WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP
OF MR. JOE APPIAH, TO ENQUIRE MNLO THE OPEARTIONS OF THE
BRISCOE COMPANY. THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT HAS NOT SO FAR
BEEN PUBLISHED.

3. THE EXTRACT READS QUOTE WE NOW TURN TO ANOTHER MATTER
OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE ABOUT WHICH GOVERNMENT SHOULD CERTAINLY
TAKE ACTION TO AVOID REPETITION. IT IS CLEAR THAT BRISCOE
WAS ABLE TO HOLD FULL DISCUSSIONS PRIVATELY WITH THE
WORLD BANK REPRESENTATIVE IN GHANA ABOUT THE
GOVERNMENT'S TEN DEVELOPMENT PLANS WITH A VIEW TO GET-
TING BRISCOE BETTER PREPARED TO TENDER FROM A POSITION OF ADVANTAGE.
IN ONE OF THE LETTERS ON THE WEIJA DAM
PROJECT, BRISCOE WRITES "HAVE REQUESTED SCC (STATE
CONSTRUCTION CORP.) FOR COMPETITORS PRICES AND WILL
REVERT WHEN THESE ARE RECEIVED" BRISCOE COPEN ACCRA
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26/10/73 (DATE, EUROPEAN STYLE). THAT THE WHOLE

DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF AN INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN STATE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AND COMMENTED UPON PRIVATELY AND FULLY BETWEEN A PRIVATELY OWNED FOREIGN COMPANY AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WORLD BANK IN GHANA CERTAINLY GIVES CAUSE FOR SERIOUS REFLECTION ON THE "GOOD FAITH" OF SOME OF THESE U.N. REPRESENTATIVES AND WHOSE INTERESTS THEY SERVE IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT SEEMS TO US UNTENABLE THAT THIS SITUATION SHOULD EXIST. IN BOTH THE GERMAN AND DANISH AID LOANS FOR WATER WORKS, ETC. BRISCOE OBTAINED QUITE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT IN ORDERS FOR MACHINERY AND PARTS DUE, NO DOUBT, TO THEIR FORE-KNOWLEDGE OF EVENTS. UNQUOTE.

4. I AM TRANSMITTING THIS FOR YOUR INFORMATION. I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WE DO NOT AT THIS STAGE CONSIDER WRITING TO THE NEWSPAPER ITSELF. I WOULD HOWEVER PROPOSE WRITING TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL STATING THAT THE PUBLISHED EXTRACT FROM THE APPIAH COMMITTEE'S REPORT IMPLIES A SERIOUS ACCUSATION AGAINST A WORLD BANK OFFICIAL WHICH THE WORLD BANK WILL WISH TO INVESTIGATE. TO DO SO IT WOULD REQUIRE TO MAVE THE FULL EVIDENCE ON WHICH THE ACCUSATION IS BASED AND I WOULD THEREFORE ASK THAT THIS EVIDENCE BE PROGLED AS CSMATTER OF URGENCY TO THE OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR ONWARD TRANSMISSION TO WORLD BANK HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON.

5. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST BY SAME MEANS YOU REVEIVE THIS MESSAGE WHETHER THIS COURSE OF ACTION APPROVED. MUNTHALI CAN EXPLAIN SITUATION MORE FULLY. END TEXT.

6. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
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